

What is claimed is:

1. An insecticide or comprising at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein the alkyl group of said alkyl ester has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
- 5 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl group concentration is between about 2% and about 50% by volume.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is methyl lactate.
4. The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is butyl lactate.
- 10 5. The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is propyl lactate.
6. The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate.
- 15 7. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising water, fragrances, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
8. The composition of claim 3 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising water, fragrances, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
- 20 9. The composition of claim 4 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising water, fragrances,

- surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
10. The composition of claim 5 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising water, fragrances, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
- 5 11. The composition of claim 6 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising water, fragrances, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
- 10 12. A method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate, comprising applying the composition of at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein the alkyl group of said alkyl ester has 1 to 12 carbons to the substrate.
- 15 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said substrate is selected from the group comprising a plant, a crop, a tree, an animal, or a human, or a surface which may contact a plant, a crop, a tree, an animal or a human.
- 20 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said composition is applied to the skin, scalp, or hair of said human.
15. The method of claim 12 wherein said composition is applied to said substrate through a process selected from the group comprising dipping the substrate in said composition,

spraying said composition on said substrate or wiping said composition on said substrate.

16. The method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate comprising applying the composition of claim 7 to the
5 substrate.

17. The method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate comprising applying the composition of claim 8 to the substrate.

18. The method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate comprising applying the composition of claim 9 to the
10 substrate.

19. The method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate comprising applying the insecticidal composition of claim 10 to the substrate.

- 15 20. The method of reducing insect infestation on a substrate comprising applying the insecticidal composition of claim 11 to the substrate.